## REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 27, 2009. Claims 1 to 3, 9 to 11, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,198,526 (Ohtsuka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,042,500 (Niikawa '500), U.S. Patent No. 7,161,618 (Niikawa '618) and U.S. Patent No. 6,668,134 (Niikawa '134). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Referring specifically to claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a print system including an external operating apparatus, a host computer which communicates with the external operating apparatus, and a printer which communicates with the host computer. The external operating apparatus includes reading means for reading out image data from a detachable storage medium, a display unit which displays a print setting screen, an operation panel which is operative to set print settings in accordance with a print setting instruction provided by a user based on the print setting screen displayed on the display unit, and a button operative to instruct the host computer to preview the image data read out by the reading means. The external operating apparatus further includes transmission means for transmitting the image data read out by the reading means, to the host computer in response to the button being operated. The external operating apparatus also includes a controller which generates a plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for causing the host computer to set therein the print settings of the image data transmitted by the transmission means, the print setting information interruption event being generated in accordance with the operation

panel setting the print settings after the image data read out by the reading means is transmitted to the host computer by the transmission means so that the generated print setting information interruption event includes the print settings set by the operation panel and is transmitted to the host computer. The host computer includes a receiving unit which receives the image data read out by the reading means and then transmitted by the transmission means from the storage medium, and receives the plurality of interruption events generated by the controller from the external operating apparatus. The host computer also includes a control unit which detects whether the interruption event received by the receiving unit is the print setting information interruption event, and controls preview display such that the print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event are reflected in the image data received by the receiving unit, every time the print setting information interruption event is detected. The host computer further includes a print control unit which generates print data corresponding to the print setting, wherein the printer prints the print data output from the host computer.

Amended independent claim 9 is directed to a host computer of the system of Claim 1. Claims 13 and 15 are directed to methods substantially in accordance with Claims 1 and 9, respectively. Claims 16 and 18 are directed to computer-readable storage media substantially in accordance with Claims 1 and 9, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, namely Ohtsuka, Niikawa ‘500, Niikawa '618 and Niikawa '134, considered either alone or in any permissible combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present claims. In particular, the applied references, either alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) an external operating apparatus generating a plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for causing said host computer to set therein the print

settings of the image data transmitted, the print setting information interruption event being generated in accordance with the print settings being set after the image data read out is transmitted to said host computer so that the generated print setting information interruption event is transmitted to said host computer, and (ii) a host computer detecting whether the interruption event received is the print setting information interruption event, and controlling preview display such that the print settings included in the received print setting information interruption event are reflected in the image data received, every time the print setting information interruption event is detected.

The Office Action concedes that Ohtsuka and Niikawa '500 fail to disclose or suggest generating an interruption event, yet relies on Niikawa '618 for this feature.

Niikawa '618 discloses a system including a digital camera 1, a PC 1000 and a printer Pri, which are connected to each other. Camera 1 has function keys F1 to F3, each of which may be assigned a function and registered. (See Fig. 15 of Niikawa '618). If a function key is depressed, then only the assigned function corresponding to the depressed function key is executed. Thus, the position may be taken that the features of these function keys may disclose generating an event for a function corresponding to the key. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Niikawa '618 fails to disclose or suggest a function that corresponds to generating a plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for causing a host computer to set the print settings of the image data.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Niikawa '618 merely discloses executing the specific function assigned to the depressed function key. In contrast, the present claims recite the external operating apparatus generating a plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for causing a host computer to set the

print settings of the image data, and the host computer detecting whether the interruption event received is the print setting information interruption event and controlling preview display such that the print settings included in the print setting information interruption event are reflected. Thus, in response to detecting the print setting information interruption event which causes the host computer to set the print settings of the image data, the host computer also controls preview display.

Accordingly, every time the print setting information interruption event is detected, the host computer controls preview display in addition to setting the print settings of the image data. In contrast to the present claims, Niikawa '618 merely discloses executing the assigned function in response to the corresponding function key being depressed.

The remaining reference, namely Niikawa '134, has been studied but is not seen to overcome the deficiencies of Ohtsuka, Niikawa '500 and Niikawa '618.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Ohtsuka, Niikawa '500, Niikawa '618 and Niikawa '134, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to disclose or suggest at least (i) an external operating apparatus generating a plurality of interruption events including a print setting information interruption event for causing said host computer to set therein the print settings of the image data transmitted, the print setting information interruption event being generated in accordance with the print settings being set after the image data read out is transmitted to said host computer so that the generated print setting information interruption event is transmitted to said host computer, and (ii) a host computer detecting whether the interruption event received is the print setting information interruption event, and controlling preview display such that the print settings included in the received print setting information

interruption event are reflected in the image data received, every time the print setting information interruption event is detected.

In light of the deficiencies in the applied art, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 9, 13, 15, 16 and 18 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

## REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

Applicants respectfully request an interview to discuss the differences between the present invention and the applied art. For his part, the undersigned will also telephone the Examiner in the following weeks in an effort to determine the status of the application, and also to schedule an interview. Accordingly, however, if the Examiner reaches this case for action before an interview has been scheduled, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (714) 540-8700 for scheduling of an interview.

## CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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